



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

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### Office of the Sheriff

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July 24, 2019

Ryan T. O'Connor  
Ramsey County Manager  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Mr. O'Connor,

I appreciate your email dated July 24, 2019; however, you cannot rewrite history.

On March 11, 2019 I advised you that as a result of excessive unauthorized hiring by the previous administration in 2018 the Ramsey County Sheriff's budget would be over budget by \$2.3 to \$3.1 million dollars. This was primarily driven by the previous administrations hiring of 28 FTEs over the authorized complement. In our phone conversation you stated you did not want to lay off employees to manage the shortfall.

On April 8, I met with members of your Finance Department. You were not present at that meeting. Contrary to your email assertions, I did not agree to have the budget balanced by years end. I am confident Chief Financial Officer Lee Mehrkens can confirm that I agreed to reduce the complement to a number that would not have impact on the 2020 budget. I was very clear that I was not going to sacrifice important public safety initiative as a result of the previous administrations incompetence in monitoring the hiring of correctional officers.

The "trajectory" of the 2019 budget has not worsened since March 11. In fact, it has improved. Our FTE overage has dropped from 33 extra on January 8 to only 18 extra as of June 30. I anticipate that number will reduce to 12 by years end. Those 12 would then be absorbed in 2020 through retirements and separations.

I welcome your offer of partnership. A good partnership begins with an honest appraisal of the real challenges that were created by excessive hiring in 2018 before I arrived. I am always available to meet. Based on Scott Williams' morning email where he referred to our legitimate concerns as "crazy claims" it might be best to exclude him.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher  
Sheriff

Copy: Lee Mehrkens, Chief Financial Officer  
Gail Blackstone, Human Resources Director